

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 NEA-10

EA-11 RSR-01 /200 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9578

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6159

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD GATT EAGR EEC US IT

SUBJECT: EC MINISTERIAL JUNE 25-26

1. ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL MIN AND EMBOFF CALLED ON MINISTRY
FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REP FRANCISI (MINISTER IN CHARGE OF EC
AFFAIRS), WHO WAS MEMBER OF ITALIAN DELEGATION, TO OBTAIN ITALIAN
IMPRESSIONS OF JUNE 25-26 EC MINISTERIAL.

2. MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (MTN). (A) AGRICULTURE:
FRANCISI SAID THAT STRONGLY HELD FRENCH POSITION CONVINCED HIM
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THAT FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS, CHOICE WOULD BE COMMODITY AGREEMENTS OR NOTHING. ECON COMMERCIAL MINISTER REVIEWED UNSATISFACTORY US EXPERIENCE WITH COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, STRESSING PRACTICAL AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH EC STRESS ON THIS ISSUE CAUSES FOR US. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT IN EMPHASIZING COMMODITY AGREEMENTS EC IS IN EFFECT PRE-NEGOTIATING BY PREJUDGING THE FORM OF NEGOTIATIONS IN A WAY WHICH LIMITS EC FREEDOM OF ACTION AND TENDS IMPOSE A FRAMEWORK ON US WHICH WE HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID WE DO NOT LIKE. FRANCISCI ALSO NOTED THAT US ACTION ON SOYBEAN AND COTTONSEED PRODUCT EXPORTS WOULD DEFINITELY STRENGTHEN HAND OF EC MEMBERS WHO WISHED KEEP CAP OUT OF MTN. (B) INDUSTRY: FRANCISCI CHARACTERIZED RESULTS AS THE BEST THAT COULD BE OBTAINED UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. (C) NEGOTIATING OVERVIEW: ON THE BASIS OF JOBERT'S FAILURE TO RAISE MATTER, HE BELIEVES THE FRENCH NO LONGER INSIST ON A DETAILED NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR TOKYO IF PRESSED BY OTHER EC MEMBERS FOR MORE GENERAL MANDATE.

3. MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. FRANCISCI CONFIRMED THAT MANDATE DOES NOT INSIST UPON RECIPROCITY, I. E., REVERSE PREFERENCES, FROM MAHGREB COUNTRIES. HE PHRASED THE EC POSITION AS QTE A FREE TRADE AREA WITHOUT RECIPROCITY UNQTE. HE APPEARED CONCERNED THAT THIS WOULD MAKE EC-MAHGREB AGREEMENT LESS GATT DEFENSIBLE. HE ALSO STATED THAT ITALY WAS SATISFIED WITH DECISIONS ON CITRUS PRODUCTS AND "SENSITIVE" CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. COMMENT: FROM HIS RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS CITRUS ISSUE AS IT RELATES TO US, EMBASSY SURMISES THAT QUESTION OF LOWER MFN CXT RATE WAS NOT RPT NOT RAISED EITHER AT AG MINISTERS MEETING OR ON JUNE 25-26.

4. GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS. ECMIN NOTED THAT DECISIONS AT MINISTERIAL WOULD RENDER MORE DIFFICULT TASK OF SECURING SATISFACTORY US LEGISLATION FOR FORTHCOMING MTN AND RISKED ESCALATING INTO A US-COMMUNITY CONFRONTATION IN THE INTEREST OF NO ONE. HE STATED THAT, IN VIEW OF STRONG ITALIAN COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT US POSITION AS DEVELOPED BY MALMGREN AND RENNER DURING THEIR JUNE 22-23 CONVERSATIONS WITH MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIALS, HE WAS DISAPPOINTED IN RELATIVELY WEAK ITALIAN SUPPORT FOR FLEXIBLE MANDATE IN 113 COMMITTEE AND AT MINISTERIAL. FRANCISCI REMARKED THAT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE HAD ALWAYS BEEN STRONG SUPPORTER OF CLASSICAL LIBERAL TRADE VIEWS AND HAD TO BE CHECKED FROM TIME TO TIME BY MFA TO MAINTAIN ITALY'S ESSENTIAL EC AND DOMESTIC INTERESTS. CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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ECMIN REITERATING HIS CONCERN OVER INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS GOI OFFICIALS TO LEND MORE POSITIVE SUPPORT TO RESOLUTION US-EC DIFFICULTIES AT TIME BOTH GOI AND USG AGREE ON NECESSITY THESE BE SURMOUNTED. VOLPE

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